

**JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 9, 2017 7:00 P.M.**

Tony Eder absent

Meeting was called to order with Howard Malcomb leading the pledge to the flag.

Mike Kelley made a motion to approve prior minutes; Paul Belding seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

First on the agenda was Kathy Ertel, Director of EDC, with a compliance request from Decatur Mold. Charles A. Weber, CEO of Decatur Mold was also in attendance and offered to answer any questions the council might have. There were two Personal Property abatement requests, one was a 5 yr abatement from 2012 and the other 5 yr abatement was from 2016. Mrs. Ertel stated that Decatur Mold has fallen a little short of the hiring expectations but has exceeded the salary expectations and she asked the council to consider this and approve the compliance request with the statement of benefits. Mr. Weber added that they appreciate the county's support and they strive to stay competitive and since this report have added 4 new employees and hope to add 6 more.

Josh Yeager made a motion to approve both abatements; Larry Maschino seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda was Don Biehle with the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Department coming back to talk with the council on funding for their new fire station. Mr. Biehle stated that they have to submit a budget with their application for the \$500,000 grant they are applying for and he believes it would go a long way if it was seen that the county supported this application with the \$200,000 commitment to the project.

Howard Malcomb stated that he just can't wrap his head around the \$800,000 proposal for the building. Dave Woodall said that the quotes showing are all from top grade contractors and he feels that it could be built for less and retain the quality of the structure. Mr. Malcomb suggested scaling the project back and Mr. Biehle replied that he had because the original quotes were for 1.2 million and it is now \$802,900. Questions and concerns were expressed about the need of some of the space showing and again the possibility of scaling back the project. The council believes the need is there but unsure of the magnitude of expenses showing.

Josh Yeager stated he wanted to commend Don Biehle on all his hard work on this project and that Mr. Yeager had no regrets either way to be able to support the fire department.

Alex Murphy stated that the project has been bid and the costs are true.

Dave Woodall suggested doing 10% of the grant or \$50,000 in County support and Larry Maschino agreed with that.

Josh Yeager made a motion to approve the \$200,000 in support for the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. Motion died for lack of second.

Josh Yeager made a motion to approve \$100,000 in support for the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. Motion died for lack of second.

Mike Kelley made a motion to approve \$50,000 in support for the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. and the money is to be set aside in next year's budget for the grant application. Josh Yeager seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bea Murphy wanted to also applaud the efforts of Don Biehle for this project.

Jeff Gee mentioned that the Department of Homeland Security for the State of Indiana controls all building permits and there are codes for different building categories and a firehouse has different codes than an Airport hangar. Mr. Gee went on to say that different building codes will affect the costs of the building.

Next on the agenda was Judge Gary Smith and he reminded the council that at their last meeting Judge Webster requested money to add a full time person to his staff. Judge Smith stated he is now requesting the same only he would like a part time person for 3 days a week and the remaining monies to go to Nathan Floyd and ADRP program. Judge Smith stated that Judge Webster received \$26,314 to add to his staff but Auditor Vance inserted that Judge Webster only received \$10,000 to add to his already appropriated \$15,000 in his part time line to make it a full time position. Auditor Vance went on to say that Judge Webster's part time person went on maternity leave and did not return and since it was already April and no monies had been spent, the Council thought the \$10,000 added to the \$15,000 would be sufficient for this year. Judge Webster was told at budget time he could address the salary for this person at that time. Judge Smith then said he would like the same amount then of \$10,000. Nathan Floyd stated that the grant he had previously received for \$8,000 is not valid anymore. Mr. Floyd said that he is paid through the Clerk's report of collections only right now. Mr. Floyd stated that he hears around 1,000 divorce and child custody cases per year in Jennings County.

Mike Kelley made a motion to allow \$10,000 be appropriated for the ADR Program contingent on the county attorney's opinion on whether the county has to issue liability insurance. Dave Woodall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Brian Belding with the Prosecutor's Office asking for appropriation for a full time staff member at the rate of \$26,314.00 The additional staff is needed on the criminal side as 100 cases are waiting to be filed and 250 cases have already been filed. In 2014 439 Misdemeanor cases were filed and 798 Felony cases; 2015 558 Misdemeanor cases and 416 Felony cases; 2016 556 Misdemeanor cases and 622 Felony cases and one person is handling all those. Mr. Belding's staff is becoming frustrated and discouraged because the work is not getting done as quickly as it should. Mr. Belding stated he knew Judge Webster came and asked for appropriations for 3 additional public defenders and the Prosecutor's office produces all that work. Mr. Belding stated productivity is being affected and he doesn't want it to come to where he has to pick and choose what cases are filed.

Mike Kelley made a motion to allow a full time person for the Prosecutor's Office at \$26,314 base pay. Larry Maschino seconded the motion and motion passed with unanimous vote.

Next Sheriff Gary Driver addressed the council concerning a bill from the State Board of Accounts for \$2,103.00. The bill reflects the time the SBOA did an investigation of records at the Sheriff's department for a period starting 1/01/2013 through 12/31/2014. Sheriff Driver asked the council to pay this bill.

Dave Woodall made a motion for the County to pay the SBOA bill of \$2,103. Mike Kelley seconded the motion and motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Woodall asked the Auditor to check and see if the bill could be paid out of LIT money.

Next Auditor Vance had a letter from Judge Webster requesting \$10,000 for his Petit Jury as they only have \$186.16 left in that line item now and it started out the year with \$10,000.00 There has been 4 criminal jury trials so far this year with a cost of \$3,000 per trial. Judge Webster needs to request this additional for the balance of the year.

Mike Kelley made a motion to allow the additional of \$10,000 for Judge Webster's Petit Jury account line. Larry Maschino seconded the motion; motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes and 1 No.

Howard Malcomb passed out a plat map showing the location of the current jail and surrounding properties that he would like to discuss using for the new jail project. Mr. Malcomb feels that the current location and surrounding properties should be utilized for the project instead of purchasing a new location.

Dave Woodall made a motion to adjourn; Mike Kelley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest:



Kay Sue Vance, Auditor



Howard Malcomb, President



Mike Kelley

Paul Belding

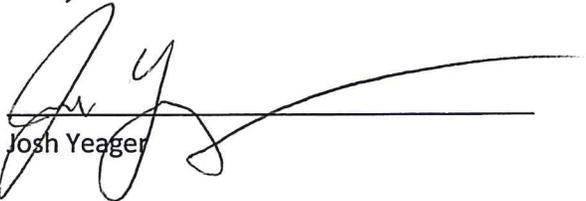
Dave Woodall



Tony Eder



Larry Maschino



Josh Yeager